



**THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS/OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

180 Howard Street • San Francisco, CA 94105-1639 • (415) 538-2303

1149 South Hill Street • Los Angeles, CA 90015-2299 • (213) 765-1500

**INFORMATION FOR UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS
OCTOBER 2005 FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION**

EXAMINATION FORMAT AND GRADING

The enclosed letter indicates your raw scores on the four parts of the written test, the number of items you answered correctly in each of three subjects on the multiple-choice portion of the examination, your total raw and scaled written scores, and your total scaled score.

The October 2005 First-Year Law Students' Examination consisted of one session of four essay questions and one session of one-hundred multiple-choice questions testing Contracts, Criminal Law, and Torts. The passing score for the First-Year Law Students' Examination is a total scaled score of 560 or higher.

An applicant's raw multiple-choice score is the number of items answered correctly. Multiple-choice raw scores were converted to a multiple-choice converted score. This process adjusts for the possible differences in the difficulty of the multiple-choice items on different administrations of the examination. As a result, an applicant's converted multiple-choice score is not affected by the difficulty of the particular version of the examination that the applicant takes.

An applicant's raw score on an essay question can range between 40 and 100. Total raw essay scores can therefore range between 160 and 400 points. Total raw essay scores are converted to the same scale of measurement as that used for the multiple-choice portion. This is done to adjust for possible differences in the difficulty of the essay questions and for variations in grader standards.

An applicant's total scaled score on the examination is the sum of that applicant's converted scores on the multiple-choice and essay sections. This step gives these sections equal weight in determining the total score. Applicants need a total scaled score of 560 or higher to pass the examination.

The Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) is aware of the importance of the First-Year Law Students' Examination to each applicant and has established procedures calculated to ensure a fair system of grading.

The anonymity of the applicant is preserved throughout the grading process. Each applicant is assigned a code number that is not known to either the applicant or any person responsible for the grading of the answers until after the applicant's final grade is determined. This number is stamped on the applicant's books. Neither the graders who initially grade the answers nor the Reappraiser who reappraises them have any way of knowing whose answers they are grading or what the applicant's background, legal education or prior experience, if any, with the examination has been. Consequently, no factor other than the applicant's answers has any bearing on success or failure.

Applicants' answers to the essay questions are graded by graders who are licensed to practice law in California, have proved their ability at legal analysis, and are carefully supervised. All applicants who receive a total scaled score of 560 or above on the first reading of their answers are passed. Those who receive a total scaled score of less than 540 are failed.

The essay answers of all applicants who receive a total scaled score of 540 or above, but less than 560, are reread independently by a Reappraiser, who has had substantial experience as a grader before becoming a Reappraiser, and is thoroughly familiar with the standards set by the Committee. If the Reappraiser concludes that the applicant's answers, as a whole, should receive an overall scaled score of 560 or above, the applicant is passed. If the Reappraiser concludes that the answers should receive an overall scaled score of less than 560, the applicant is failed.

To confirm your score:

Converted multiple-choice score

Add your three raw multiple-choice scores; the converted multiple-choice score can then be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Converted multiple-choice score} = (3.6098) (\text{Sum of Raw Multiple-Choice scores}) + 12.2928$$

Scaled written score

Add your four raw written essay scores; the scaled written score can then be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Scaled written} = (1.9821) (\text{Sum of Raw Written Scores}) - 254.6970$$

RECONSIDERATION

The Committee believes that its grading system affords each applicant a fair and careful consideration of all answers on the First-Year Law Students' Examination and that no useful purpose would be served by further consideration by the Committee. For this reason, the Committee will not entertain requests for reconsideration unless the applicant establishes that one of the following resulted in failure or prevented the examination from being reappraised:

- i. an arithmetical error in the calculation of the total written score from the final grades assigned to the written questions or in the calculation of the total multiple-choice score; or,
- ii. a clerical error.

INSPECTION OF EXAMINATION PAPERS

Multiple-Choice: You may inspect the multiple-choice portion of the examination at the Office of Admissions (San Francisco or Los Angeles) nearest the location at which you took the examination from January 3, 2006 through May 3, 2006. All who may wish to review their multiple-choice answers cannot be accommodated at the same time. Appointments for a period of one and one-half hours, in a proctored situation (no notes permitted) will be made on a first-come, first-served basis from January 3, 2006 through May 3, 2006. You are limited to a single appointment. Appointments to inspect your papers must be made in advance. To make an appointment, call the Office of Admissions: (415) 538-2303 in San Francisco and (213) 765-1500 in Los Angeles. Appointments may be scheduled at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Essay: Requests for essay books will be honored from January 3, 2006 through May 3, 2006. You may pick up your essay answers at the Office of Admissions nearest the location at which you took the examination, or you may request that your essay answers be sent to you by sending a signed request to that office by using the enclosed form. If you intend to pick up your answers from the San Francisco Office of Admissions, you must call the day before you intend to do so. Arrangements will be made so you can pick them up at the office on the intended day between either 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

* Keys to Grades:

A	–	Excellent (660+)
B	–	Good (620 - 659)
C	–	Fair (580 - 619)
D	–	Barely Passed: Considerable improvement in rate of progress will have to be shown to pass the General Bar Examination (560 - 579)

* All numerical scores are total scaled scores.

FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION STUDY AIDS

The Committee has received numerous requests to provide materials that might be of assistance to applicants in determining what the Committee desires in answers to the First-Year Law Students' Examination questions. In response, the Committee produces "Selected Answers", which are actual examination answers from a particular administration of the examination that were considered passing. Essay questions and Selected Answers for the past several administrations of the First-Year Law Students' Examination are available free of charge on the Office of Admissions web site at www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions. Selected Answers from the October 2005 administration are expected to be available online by January 18, 2006.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF ESSAY ANSWERS
FOR THE OCTOBER 2005 FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS' EXAMINATION**

INSTRUCTIONS: Beginning January 3, 2006 through May 3, 2006, if you wish:

1. **To pick up your answers in person**, complete this form and bring it to the Office of Admissions nearest the location at which you took the examination. If you intend to pick up your answers from the San Francisco Office, you must call the day before you intend to do so. Arrangements will be made so you pick them up at the office on the intended day between either 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **A photo ID is required.**
2. **To have another person pick up your answers**, that person must be in possession of a notarized copy of this form or possess power of attorney. If using a power of attorney, this form must be completed and a copy of the power of attorney attached.
3. **To have your original answers mailed** to you, complete this form, have it notarized, enclose a check for \$10.00, and mail it to the office nearest the location at which you took the examination.
4. **To obtain copies of your answers**, complete this form. Specify copies. Take this form with you and a check for \$25.00, or have it notarized and send it with a check for \$25.00 to the Office of Admissions nearest the location at which you took the examination. Requests of this nature require additional time to process and will be mailed to you.

1149 South Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90015 -2299

180 Howard Street
or San Francisco, CA 94105-1639

Social Security
Number: _____

Name

Applicant Number: _____

Address

Code Number: _____

(The above numbers are indicated on your result card.)

Phone Number

BY MAIL: I hereby request that the Office of Admissions mail my October 2005 essay answers to me. I understand that the Office of Admissions will send my answers via certified mail, return receipt requested; however, by my signature I assume the risk of loss in mail. Enclosed is my check for \$10.00 to cover the cost of mailing.

☐ Original: \$10.00 ☐ Copies: \$25.00

Signature

Notary: State of _____, County of _____. Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this _____ day of _____, 20_____, by _____, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) who appeared before me.

(seal)

Notary Signature

If I choose to take custody of my original examination answer books (instead of copies thereof), I understand that I am waiving any rereading or re-evaluation of said answer books for purposes of any appeals, petitions, or requests for reconsideration concerning the grading process which have been or may be filed on my behalf.

IN PERSON: I hereby acknowledge receipt of my October 2005 essay answers: ☐

I hereby request copies of my October 2005 essay answers instead of originals: ☐ Copies: \$25.00

Date

Signature

Identification

Clerk

If I choose to take custody of my original examination answer books (instead of copies thereof), I understand that I am waiving any rereading or re-evaluation of said answer books for purposes of any appeals, petitions, or requests for reconsideration concerning the grading process which have been or may be filed on my behalf.